



**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Bangladesh - Cyclone

Fact Sheet #9, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

December 7, 2007

Note: The last fact sheet was dated December 5, 2007.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Between December 4 and 5, USAID/Bangladesh's Food Security and Disaster Management Unit (USAID/FAD) conducted an assessment in cyclone-affected areas of Barguna and Barisal districts. The USAID/FAD team reported that Government of Bangladesh (GOB) local administrative officials and non-governmental organizations are effectively coordinating food distribution, preventing the duplication of services and gaps in humanitarian assistance to affected areas.

| NUMBERS AT A GLANCE* | | SOURCE |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Total Affected Population | 3,328 dead, 871 missing, 8.7 million affected | GOB – December 7, 2007 |
| Houses Damaged or Destroyed | 1.5 million houses damaged or destroyed | GOB – December 7, 2007 |

*Figures based on preliminary estimates.

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| USAID/OFDA Assistance to Bangladesh..... | \$4,540,287 |
| USAID/FFP ¹ Assistance to Bangladesh | \$15,000,000 |
| Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Bangladesh..... | \$19,540,287 |

CURRENT SITUATION

Food Security

- According to the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART), the GOB revised the country's food needs to 142,000 metric tons, half of the amount previously estimated, to ensure adequate food supply for affected populations.
- Through the U.N. Development Program, the U.K. Department for International Development has provided dry food to 70,000 families in Barisal, Chittagong, and Khulna divisions, according to the GOB.
- The U.N. World Food Program will distribute additional emergency food commodities in affected areas of Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakati, Khulna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, and Satkhira districts on December 10.

Health

- The U.N. World Health Organization reported that nearly 700 GOB medical teams are providing assistance in affected areas.
- According to the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA), nearly 30,000 expectant mothers live in cyclone-affected areas. To ensure adequate maternal care, UNFPA is providing health kits to clinics to assist women.
- The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) continues to deliver high energy biscuits to women and children in isolated affected areas.

Shelter

- The U.N. shelter cluster established a technical working group that will provide assistance to the GOB, humanitarian agencies, and local communities in the construction and rehabilitation of houses and shelters. The GOB plans to build 2,000 cyclone-resistant shelters.
- Coordination of the cluster's low-cost shelter strategy will take place at the national and district levels, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

¹ USAID's Office of Food for Peace

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE***Cyclone Relief Programs***

- On November 15, Tropical Cyclone Sidr made landfall in southern Bangladesh with winds of 155 miles per hour. On November 16, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. Geeta Pasi declared a disaster due to the effects of the cyclone. On November 17, the USAID/DART began arriving in Bangladesh and programming funds in response to the cyclone.
- USAID has provided more than \$19 million in emergency funds to support relief and early recovery activities, including shelter and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs. The funds also include USAID/FFP’s allocation of \$15 million of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance.
- In collaboration with implementing partners, USAID/OFDA has provided 15,000 blankets, 2,500 hygiene kits, and 4,900 water containers, serving nearly 45,000 beneficiaries. In addition, USAID/OFDA provided eight water purification units and four 10,000-liter water bladders for the cyclone response, improving the hygiene and sanitation conditions of nearly 80,000 people. USAID/OFDA has also delivered 300 rolls of plastic sheeting, benefiting approximately 18,000 people.
- On December 6, U.S. Department of Defense officials concluded relief flight operations. The U.S. navy ship U.S.S. Tarawa is departing Bangladesh on December 10.

Preparedness and Mitigation Programs

- USAID has a longstanding commitment of investing in preparedness and mitigation programs in Bangladesh. USAID programs include the construction and maintenance of multi-purpose flood and cyclone shelters as well as wave protection walls and earthen embankments to reduce flood damage. In addition to building nearly 4,000 physical mitigation structures since 2005, USAID has trained local disaster management committees to oversee emergency response and provided cyclone-preparedness training programs for coastal areas.
- Over the past decade, two USAID/OFDA programs have promoted coordination between communities and local authorities and supported the operation of mobile water purification plants and a mobile health unit. USAID/OFDA also has supported community flood monitoring and forecasting to mitigate damage in flood plains.
- USAID-funded disaster preparedness mechanisms already in country before the storm included zodiac boats, water treatment systems, and water ambulances used for emergency operations. USAID partners pre-positioned 30,000 emergency survival packages, as well as food stockpiles, to facilitate distribution after the storm passed.
- USAID/OFDA programs have developed cadres of professional emergency response instructors, strengthened the forecasting capacity of regional and national hydrometeorological institutions, carried out hazard mapping and vulnerability assessments, and established community-based early warning mechanisms in urban centers.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH

| FY 2008 | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|
| <i>Implementing Partner</i> | <i>Activity</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Amount</i> |
| USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹ | | | |
| American Red Cross | Shelter, WASH | Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakati, Khulna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, and Satkhira Districts | \$1,000,000 |
| CARE | Emergency Relief Activities | Bagerhat District | \$30,000 |
| Save the Children/US | Emergency Relief Activities | Barguna and Patuakhali Districts | \$70,000 |
| CARE Save the Children/US | Emergency Relief Supplies | Bagerhat and Barguna Districts Barguna and Patuakhali Districts | \$252,175 |
| Save the Children/US World Vision | Emergency Relief Supplies | Barguna District Patuakhali and Pirojpur Districts | \$382,760 |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------------|
| U.S. Department of Defense | Transportation of Emergency Relief Supplies | Affected Areas | \$500,000 |
| Save the Children/US | Shelter, WASH | Barguna and Patuakhali Districts | \$604,952 |
| U.N. Children's Fund | WASH | Affected Areas | \$700,000 |
| World Vision | Shelter, WASH | Bagerhat and Khulna Districts | \$800,000 |
| | Administrative Support | Affected Areas | \$200,400 |
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA | | | \$4,540,287 |
| USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE | | | |
| Multiple Private Voluntary Organizations | P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance | Affected Areas | \$10,000,000 |
| U.N. World Food Program | P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance | Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Jhalakati, Khulna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, and Satkhira Districts | \$5,000,000 |
| TOTAL USAID/FFP | | | \$15,000,000 |
| TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH IN FY 2008 | | | \$19,540,287 |

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of December 7, 2007.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for the cyclone response efforts in Bangladesh can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc.); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/